

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01072 141657Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 065363

O 141605Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1511

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATECB

XQ

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1072

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO 2 - NIMEIRI PREPARED CONTINUE EFFORTS EFFECT  
RELEASE HOSTAGES

BEGIN SUMMARY. LEARNING THAT ERITREAN MILITARY LEADERS MIGHT STILL BE IN KHARTOUM, TOOK ADVANTAGE MY CALL ON NIMEIRI RE PEACE LION TO CALL HIS ATTENTION TO LATEST PLF BEIRUT THREATS RE CISCO 2 AND SOLICIT HIS RENEWED PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN HOSTAGE CASES. PRESIDENT AGREED TO TRY TO CONTACT PLF'S AFEWORK AND ELF'S NASSER ON CASE. WILL FOLLOW UP TO SEE WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER BRIEFING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI RE PEACE LION DELIVERY (SEPTTEL), I SAID HAD NOT HAD EARLIER OPPORTUNITY THANK HIM DIRECTLY FOR HIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN SECURING RELEASE KAGNEW 2 LAST JANUARY. USG HAD BEEN MOST GRATEFUL THIS ACTION, AS SECRETARY'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIM HAD INDICATED. UNFORTUNATELY, THREE AMERICANS WERE STILL HELD. HIS PUBLIC SECURITY PEOPLE HAD BEEN DOING ALL THEY COULD TO FREE THEM. HOWEVER, PLF SPOKESMAN IN BEIRUT HAD NOW REVIVED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EXECUTION CISCO 2 UNLESS RANSOM PAID BY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01072 141657Z

END THIS MONTH. NIMEIRI SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF AP REPORT.

I CONTINUED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT SUGGESTED THAT TIME MAY HAVE ARRIVED FOR PRESIDENT'S OWN INTERVENTION IN THE CASE TO EXPEDITE RELEASE REMAINING HOSTAGES. PERSONAL APPEAL FROM HIM ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS TO ELF AND PLF LEADERSHIP WOULD CLEARLY BE CALCULATED MOVE MATTERS ALONG. THIS CONNECTION, THERE WERE REPORTS THAT BOTH PLF MILITARY LEADER ISAIAS AFEWORK AND ELF LEADER AHMED MOHAMED NASSER MIGHT STILL BE IN KHARTOUM. I CONCLUDED THAT I UNDERSTOOD UK AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED RE FATE BURWOOD-TAYLOR AND MIGHT ASK TO SEE NIMEIRI HIMSELF IF NO PROGRESS MADE SOON IN CASE (PHILLIPS HAD ASKED ME MAKE THIS POINT WHICH I AGREED TO DO AS IT STRENGTHENS GENERAL POSITION THAT EARLY ACTION IS NOW REQUIRED BY TOP LEVEL SUDANESE).

2. NIMEIRI REPLIED THAT AFEWORK AND NASSER WERE THE TYPE OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM ONE HAD TO DEAL. OSMAN SALEH SABBE SIMPLY "ISSUED RELEASES WHENEVER SOMEONE PAID HIM". NOTING HE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO HELP US IN THE BEGINNING, NIMEIRI SAID HE WOULD TPNTINUE TO DO WHAT HE COULD. HE THOUGHT AFEWORK AND NASSER MIGHT HAVE LEFT KHARTOUM ENROUTE ERITREA BUT UNDERTOOK TO SEE IF SOME MESSAGE COULD NOT BE GOTTEN TO THEM. PRESIDENT NOTED ERITREANS WOULD BE MOST UPSET WHEN FACT OF DELIVERY OF F-5E'S BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. THEIR ATTITUDE ON HOSTAGE CASES WOULD THEREAFTER BECOME EVENMORE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. I INTERJECTED THAT WASHINGTON REGARDS ISSUES OF ARMS SALES AND HOSTAGES AS ENTIRELY SEPARATE. LATTER IS HUMANITARIAN QUESTION INVOLVING THREE INNOCENT AMERICAN CIVILIANS. ERITREANS COULD IN ANY CASE HARDLY EXPECT UNDERSTANDING FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WHEN THEY WERE HOLDING AMERICANS HOSTAGE.

3. NIMEIRI AGREED CONTINUED DETENTION CISCO 3 WOULD NOT APPEAR IN ERITREAN INTEREST. TROUBLE WAS WHEN ERITREANS WERE APPROACHED BY GOS, THEY ALWAYS COUNTERED WITH CONDITIONS FOR SUDAN TO MEET. THEY MIGHT ASK FOR GIFT OF EIGHT TRUCKLOADS OF DURA (SORGHUM)

GOS WOULD PERHAPS COUNTER BY AGREEING DONATE FOUR AND SELL FOUR BUT ALWAYS HAD TO DO SOMETHING. ANYWAY, PRESIDENT CONCLUDED RUEFULLY, HE WOULD NOW SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE WITH ERITREAN LEADERS TO EXPEDITE RELEASE.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KHARTO 01072 141657Z

4. COMMENT. PLF BEIRUT STATEMENT REVIVING EXECUTION THREAT, PLUS NEW INFO THAT ERITREAN MILITARY LEADERS WERE UNTIL APRIL 12 IN KHARTOUM, PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOCUS NIMEIRI'S PERSONAL ATTENTION ON CASE. PRESIDENT'S POSITIVE REACTION IS ENCOURAGING BUT WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO DO. WILL FOLLOW UP NEXT FEW DAYS WITH HIS SENIOR STAFF TO FIND OUT WHAT STEPS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN OR,

IF NECESSARY, TO TRY STIMULATE SOME POSITIVE ACTION. BREWER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRISONERS RELEASE, NEGOTIATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KHARTO001072  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760141-0829  
**From:** KHARTOUM  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760463/aaaacbpo.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CISCO 2 - NIMEIRI PREPARED CONTINUE EFFORTS EFFECT RELEASE HOSTAGES  
**TAGS:** PINS, SU, ET, PLF, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006